

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 SES-02 SAA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /088 W

-----045519 121746Z /64

R 111357Z AUG 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1525

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, PEPR, IS, JO, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE WEST BANK

1. DURING TOUR OF WEST BANK AUGUST 8 FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS
WERE NOTED IN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS:

(A) MA'ALE ADUMIM - A NEW BLOC OF FACTORIES ARE UNDER
CONSTRUCTION TO THE NORTH OF EXISTING BUILDINGS. ALSO
GROUND HAS BEEN LEVELED AND ROADS CUT AT A NEW SITE JUST
SOUTH OF THE JERUSALEM-JERICHO ROAD ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS
EAST OF ABU DIS. THIS MAY BE THE SITE FOR RELOCATION
OF THE RESIDENTIAL AREA OF MA-ALE ADUMIM. THE JERUSALEM
POST REPORTED JULY 4 THAT PLANNING WAS UNDER WAY FOR A
5000-UNIT COMMUNITY WITH AN INITIAL 1000 UNITS TO BE LOCATED
IN THIS VICINITY FOR OCCUPATION NEXT YEAR. THE NEW
SITE IS TO BE LOCATED 250 METERS HIGHER THAN THE PRESENT
SITE AND AFFORDS BETTER CLIMATE.

(B) ROTEM (PHATZAELE DALET) - WORK HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST
AT A SITE ABOUT A KILOMETER NORTH OF PHATZAELE SEVERAL
HUNDRED METERS WEST OF THE VALLEY ROAD WHICH WE THINK
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IS PROBABLY ROTEM. THE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION IN THE VICINITY,
A SERVICE STATION JUST WEST OF THE ROAD IS NOW FUNCTIONING.

2. YUSIF RIDA (UNRWA DIRECTOR NABLUS). COMPLAINED TO US
AUGUST 10 THAT THE NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF SHOMRON IS
EXPANDING AT THE EXPENSE OF VILLAGERS IN DAYR SHARAF.
RIDA INTERPRETED THE EXPANSION AS PROOF THAT ISRAELIS HAVE

NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE WEST BANK.

3. LIKEWISE, NABLUS DEPUTY MAYOR TOLD POLOFF AUGUST 8 THAT ARABS LIVING NEAR QARNEI SHOMRON WHO CLAIM THE LAND ON WHICH THE NEW SETTLEMENT IS LOCATED HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO MILGOV HDQ AND URGED TO SIGN DOCUMENTS IN HEBREW PRESUMABLY RELINQUISHING THEIR CLAIMS. MOST VILLAGERS REFUSED TO SIGN, AL MASRI SAID.

4. COMMENT: CONTINUOUS ISRAELI EXPANSION OF SETTLEMENTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT INVOLVES ALIENATION OF LAND, UNDERCUTS EFFORTS BY MODERATES LIKE RIDA TO CONVINCE FELLOW PALESTINIANS THAT THE PEACE PROCESS CAN WORK IN THEIR FAVOR. RELOCATION OF MA-ALE ADUMIM WOULD BE, FOR MOST PRACTICAL PURPOSES, A NEW SETTLEMENT AND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE VIEWED AS SUCH BY LOCAL PALESTINIANS.
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